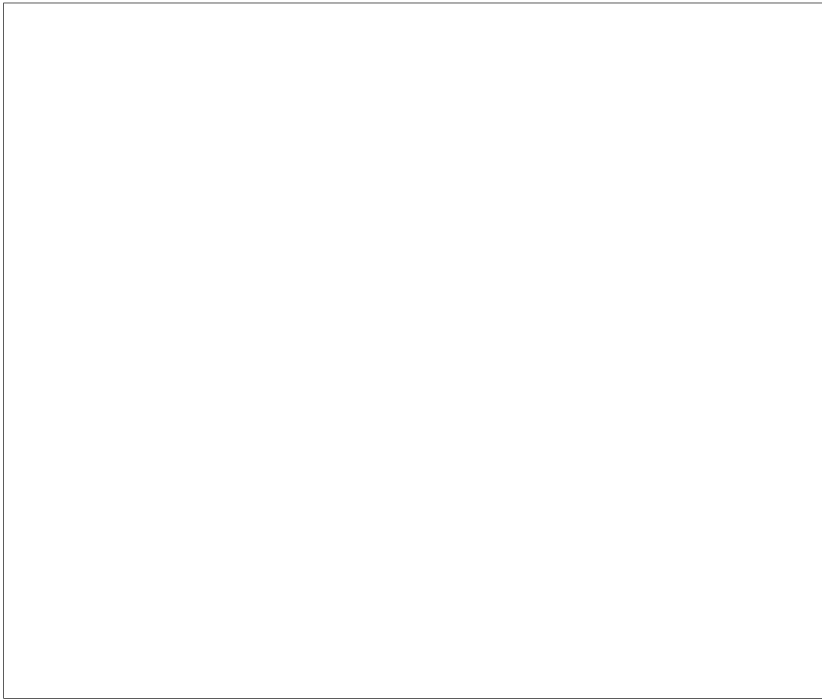


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TO: WHITE HOUSE, STATE RCI//INR//, SSO DIA//DHO-CSR//,
 JOINT STAFF, DA IDHS, ONI, CNO, CMC//CIE/CIC/CIZ//, SSO USAF,
 SSO NAIC, SSO AIA, SSO NGIC//HCS//, SSO REDSTONE, SSO SOIC,
 MCIA QUANT, DIRNSA, JWAC//J2//, TREAS DEPT, SSO DOE, SSO USEUCOM,
 JAC MLSWTH, SY SEC SHAPE, SSO USAREUR//AEAGB-ISD//, SSO USAFE,
 CINCUSNAVEUR, COMSIXFLT, SSO USTRANS, SSO CINCSCOC//SOIO-IN-SSO//,
 SSO JSOC//FT BRAGG NC//, USCINCFJCOM, JFIC,
 CINCLANTFLT//NORFOLK VA//, COMMARFORLNT//NORFOLK VA//.

S E C R E T

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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T- [redacted]

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EXCLUSIVE DISSEMINATION TO ADDRESSEES LISTED AT END OF REPORT

DIST: 10 MAY 2001

COUNTRY: CONGO (K) / ZIMBABWE / ANGOLA

SUBJ: STATUS OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE
ASSASSINATION OF DROC PRESIDENT LAURENT-DESIRE KABILA
AND THE COMMISSION'S CONCLUSION THAT COLONEL EDDY KAPEND
PLAYED THE CENTRAL ROLE

DOI: [redacted]

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SOURCE: [redacted]

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SUMMARY: NONE

TEXT: 1. [redacted]

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2. [redacted]

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THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DROC) PRESIDENT
LAURENT-DESIRE KABILA HAD BEEN RELEASED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
ZIMBABWEAN, NAMIBIAN, ANGOLAN, AND DROC GOVERNMENTS. THE EVIDENCE
INDICATED FORMER PRESIDENTIAL AIDE-DE-CAMP COLONEL EDDY ((KAPEND))
HAD PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE ASSASSINATION.

3. THE COMMISSION NOTED THAT KAPEND HAD GIVEN ORDERS NOT TO
ISSUE WEAPONS TO MOST OF THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS ON DUTY ON 16
JANUARY, THE DAY WHEN THE ASSASSINATION TOOK PLACE. THIS, IN
TURN, FACILITATED THE ESCAPE OF THE ASSASSIN, WHO PURPORTEDLY
REMAINED UNNAMED AND AT LARGE. THE COMMISSION MEMBERS CONCLUDED
THAT RASCHID MUZELE KASEREKA, THE ORIGINAL SUSPECT WHO WAS SHOT
AND KILLED BY KAPEND THE DAY OF KABILA'S DEATH, WAS NOT THE REAL
ASSASSIN. IN ADDITION, THE COMMISSION MEMBERS CLAIMED THAT, ON
KAPEND'S ORDERS, THE ASSASSIN HAD BEEN GRANTED ACCESS TO A SMALL
COMMUNICATIONS ROOM ADJACENT TO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE--ANYONE IN
THIS ROOM COULD VIEW ACTIVITIES IN THE OFFICE AND THEREFORE STRIKE
AT THE MOST OPPORTUNE MOMENT. LASTLY, THE COMMISSION MEMBERS
BELIEVED THAT KAPEND HAD DELIBERATELY DOWNPLAYED WARNINGS THAT
WERE RECEIVED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION THAT
INDICATED A POSSIBLE ATTEMPT ON THE PRESIDENT'S LIFE.

4. [redacted] SOME CONGOLESE MEMBERS

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OF THE COMMISSION IN EARLY APRIL HAD AGAIN RAISED CIRCUMSTANTIAL
EVIDENCE POINTING TO THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
IN EVENTS SURROUNDING THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH. ZIMBABWE REMAINED
FIRMLY IN CONTROL OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES, HOWEVER, AND THE
LATEST ATTEMPT TO IMPLICATE THE UNITED STATES AS HAVING HAD A
POSSIBLE CONNECTION TO THE ASSASSINATION HAD BEEN EFFECTIVELY
SILENCED. THERE REMAINED ON THE COMMISSION A SMALL, HARDLINE
GROUP OF CONGOLESE WHO SEEMED INTENT ON HIGHLIGHTING THE UNITED
STATES' SUPPOSED CONNECTION TO KABILA'S MURDER, BUT THIS FACTION

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WIELDED LITTLE INFLUENCE. [] COMMENT: AS LONG AS ZIMBABWE WAS ESSENTIALLY IN CONTROL OF THE COMMISSION THESE CONGOLESE WOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO GAIN ASCENDANCY.)

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5. [] THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN STRONGLY CRITICAL OF THE COMMISSION'S PRELIMINARY FINDINGS THAT PLACED KAPEND AT THE CENTER OF A CONSPIRACY, AND ANGOLA HAD EXPRESSED STRONG OBJECTIONS. [] COMMENT: THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT'S REACTION IS UNREASONABLE SINCE ANGOLAN INVESTIGATORS HAD BEEN PRESENT DURING VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE INVESTIGATION AND ESSENTIALLY HAD AGREED WITH THE EVIDENCE FOUND BY OTHER INVESTIGATORS OF VARYING NATIONALITIES. LUANDA WAS "PLAYING POLITICS" WITH THE COMMISSION'S PRELIMINARY FINDINGS.) THREE VERSIONS OF THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS HAD BEEN WRITTEN: ONE IN ENGLISH BY THE ZIMBABWEAN AND NAMIBIAN INVESTIGATORS, ONE IN FRENCH BY THE CONGOLESE, AND ONE IN PORTUGUESE BY THE ANGOLANS. DESPITE BEING WRITTEN BY THE DIFFERENT PARTIES, THE THREE VERSIONS WERE BASICALLY IN AGREEMENT THAT BOTH THE EVIDENCE COMPILED AGAINST KAPEND WAS TRUE AND ALSO THAT IT APPEARED TO POINT TO KAPEND'S SIGNIFICANT, IF NOT PARAMOUNT, INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION.

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POC: [] COMMENTS, EVALUATIONS, AND REQUIREMENTS WELCOME.

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ACQ: []

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DISSEM: [] KAMPALA, KIGALI, KINSHASA, LONDON, LUANDA, LUSAKA, NAIROBI, OTTAWA, PARIS, PRETORIA, ROME; (PRINCIPAL OFFICERS ONLY), USUN (AMBASSADORS ONLY), US SURVEY DIVISION SHAPE (EXCLUSIVE FOR THE COMMANDER), EXCLUSIVE FOR USCINCEUR, EXCLUSIVE FOR THE COMMANDER EUCOM JAC, EXCLUSIVE FOR CINCUSAREUR, EXCLUSIVE FOR CINCUSAFE, EXCLUSIVE FOR CINCUSNAVEUR, EXCLUSIVE FOR COMSIXTHFLT, EXCLUSIVE FOR USCINCSOC, EXCLUSIVE FOR JSOC, EXCLUSIVE FOR USCINTRANS, EXCLUSIVE FOR USCINJFCOM, EXCLUSIVE FOR JFIC, EXCLUSIVE FOR CINCLANTFLT, EXCLUSIVE FOR COMMARFORLANT.

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WARNING: REPORT CLASS S E C R E T- [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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CABLETYPE: [REDACTED]

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RELNO: [REDACTED]

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ORIG: [REDACTED]

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